BIRDING NOTES Compiled by Aasheesh Pittie

This column publishes birding notes in brief telegraphic form, from **Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu** on interesting and significant sightings and behaviour like breeding, feeding, migration, nesting, *etc*. Notes on flowering and fruiting trees and their relationship with birds are also welcome. English names and classification follow, S.D. Ripley's *A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (1982, 2nd ed.) and scientific nomenclature, T. Inskipp, N. Lindsey & W. Duckworth's *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region* (1996). Unless specified, all observations are for 2001. Abbreviations, Contributors, Notes, Regional Referees, *etc*., are at the end. For selection of breeding criteria 'Probable, Possible, Confirmed', see *Pitta* # 82, February 1998, p. 4.

ANDHRA PRADESH

CHITTOOR DISTRICT

Horsley Hills 2000 (VS)

30.ix: BLACK EAGLE 2; BROWN SHRIKE hrd; YELLOW-THROATED BULBUL 2; LARGE-CROWNED LEAF WARBLER 4.

Rishi Valley 2000 (VS)

1.vi: BAYA PRB, 10-15 N under const.

18: KOEL POB, in song; BROWN FLYCATCHER hrd; MAGPIE-ROBIN POB, in song.

21: BROWN FISH OWL mobbed by 2 Treepies.

24: BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER PRB, pair excavating N-hole on coconut tree; ASHY PRINIA POB, in br., plm; BAYA POB, courting, 20+ N; BLACK-HEADED MUNIA 20+ on OH wires.

25: BROWN FLYCATCHER 1 juv; FRANKLIN'S PRINIA POB, in br., plm.

29: WHITE-BROWED BULBUL CB, incubating.

2.vii: SPOTTED MUNIA POB, ad., entering N.

5: BROWN FLYCATCHER 2 ad., 1 juv.

15: IORA PRB, song and disp.; THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER 1 (scarce in Rishi Valley).

16: ASHY-CROWNED FINCH-LARK PRB, disp.; RED-RUMPED SWALLOW PRB, Bird carrying wet mud to N under const.; BRAHMINY MYNA CB, carrying food in bill; INDIAN ROBIN CB, carrying food in bill.

22: BRAHMINY KITE 1 (uncommon).

23: SCAVENGER VULTURE 1 (uncommon).

2.viii: SHIKRA; TREEPIE; PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD. All feeding on winged termites.

3: BONELLI'S EAGLE pair.

5: BAYA CB, 35+ active N.

6: PARADISE FLYCATCHER 1F.

11: ALPINE SWIFT 7.

22: TAWNY EAGLE pair disp., in flight; COMMON SWALLOW 2.

27: ALPINE SWIFT 4.

2.ix: SCAVENGER VULTURE 1.

5: GOLDEN ORIOLE hrd.

6: SMALL GREEN-BILLED MALKOHA PRB, pair mating. M offered F a tiny caterpillar as nuptial gift; GREY WAGTAIL 1.

8: PIED CRESTED CUCKOO 1 juv., without long tail & crest, with flock of White-headed Babblers.

10: LARGE PIED WAGTAIL PRB, with N-mat.

16: GREENISH LEAF WARBLER hrd; FOREST WAGTAIL hrd.

23: PITTA hrd.

24: BLACK DRONGO in tail moult; LESSER WHITETHROAT 2.

25: BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER hrd (uncommon in Rishi Valley).

2.x: KOEL CB, yng begging food from House Crow.

7: HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO hrd.

8: GREY DRONGO 3.

9: LITTLE BROWN DOVE PRB, courting and calling; PARADISE FLYCATCHER 1M.

10: BLUE ROCK THRUSH 1.

13: GREY HORNBILL 1; RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.

14: BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER hrd.

15: KESTREL 2; HARRIER (unidentified species) 1; LITTLE BROWN DOVE CB, 1 N in *Acacia* sp.; YELLOW-EYED BABBLER POB in song; COMMON BABBLER CB, feeding yng that was begging. Aggressively chases away a Brown Shrike; WHITE-THROATED MUNIA PRB, pair carrying N-mat., to *Acacia* sp.

23.xi: BROWN FISH OWL hrd.

9.xii: BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER 1; BLACK-NAPED MONARCH hrd; INDIAN TREE PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* 8; GREY WGTAIL 35+ on OH wires; ROSEFINCH 50+.

10: BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER 1.

31: BLUE-BEARDED BEE-EATER hrd.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT

Banjara Hills 1.ii (AP)

MAGPIE-ROBIN POB, M singing from tree-tops.

CIEFL Campus (10.i) (JVDM)

BARN OWL; GREY HORNBILL 2.

Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park

4.x.2000 (SU): WHITE-BREASTED MUNIA CB, ad., feeding yng.

5: INDIAN MOORHEN CB, 1 ad., + 2 yng; STONE CURLEW 3.

29.i.2001 (BH): BOOTED WARBLER 10; YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW.

MEDAK DISTRICT

ICRISAT Campus 29.i (BH)

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK F imm; HEN HARRIER F; SHORT-EARED OWL 1; RUFOUS-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus* imm. (New record for A.P.); COMMON CHIFFCHAFF 2; GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK 200+.

10-11.ii (BSAP members): PAINTED STORKS CB, birds on N, incubating; DUCKS *Anatidae* 3,000+; HARRIER sp. 300-400 roosting; SHORT-EARED OWL 2.

Patancheru: Chintalacheruvi village 12.i (SU,JK)

WHITE IBIS 40; WHITE-NECKED STORK 2.

NELLORE DISTRICT

Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary 25.xii.2000 (VS)

INDIAN SHAG 6; GREY PELICAN 3 (no N due to low water level); NIGHT HERON 50+ ad., & juv; OPENBILL STORK CB, (12 N) 100+ birds; WHITE IBIS 10.

Pulicat Bird Sanctuary 24-25.xii.2000 (VS)

GREY PELICAN 100+; GREATER FLAMINGO 8000+; BAR-HEADED GOOSE 150+; BLACK-TAILED GODWIT 100+.

RANGAREDDI DISTRICT

Chevella (RM)

15.i: GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD 2 from halted train.

Gangaram Tank (SAK)

18.i: PURPLE HERON 1; WHITE-EYED POCHARD 15; COTTON TEAL 150+; COOT 200+. CB, some with yng; PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA 7 non-br plm; BRONZE-WINGED JACANA CB, 13 ad., 5 imm.

WARANGAL DISTRICT

Kazipet Lake 24.xii.2000 (MSK,KV)

YELLOW BITTERN CB, 1 yng; PURPLE MOORHEN CB, 5 yng; BRAHMINY MYNA CB, 50+ yng; WHITE-THROATED MUNIA CB, 4 yng.

KERALA

ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

Kochi 21-23.iv.2000 (VS)

LITTLE CORMORANT PRB, N under const; NIGHT HERON CB, N on Mango *Mangifera indica*, yng out of N; KOEL POB singing; MAGPIE-ROBIN POB singing.